3/8/88 A8912-1

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 8, 1988

Contact: David L. Yowell
or Sally Shank
(918) 493-3516

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT (Month of February, 1988)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters showed a slight increase during the month of February. The land crew total increased by one crews, and the marine crew total remained the same for a net increase of one crew to a total of 198.

The February total (198) represents an increase of 1% over last month, **a 31% increase over February, 1987**, a 33% decrease from February, 1986, a 51% decrease from February, 1985, a 59% decrease from February, 1984, a 56% decrease from February, 1983, and a decrease of 71% from the same month in 1982.

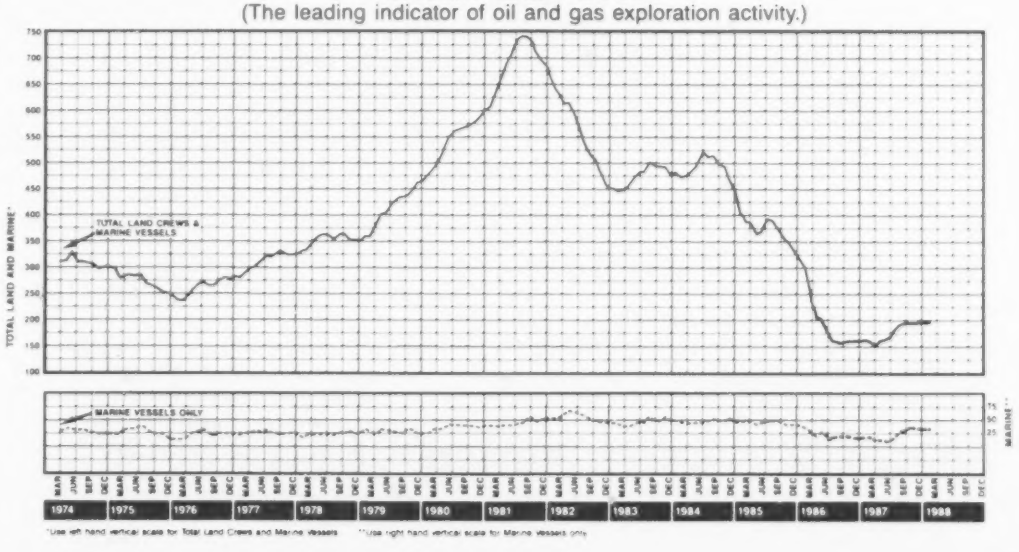
During February, one contractor was operating one of the 155 land crews and none of the twenty-six marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Feb.'87	Feb.'86	Feb.'85	Feb.'84	Feb. 83	Feb.'82
	198	197	151	295	406	486	451	678

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1986	Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb. 1982	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1986	Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb. 1982
43 Contr's:	155	152	119	226	326	396	362	582	26	26	16	34	38	45	40	46
6 Oil Co's:	13	15	13	30	34	37	42	43	4	4	3	5	7	8	7	7
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	168	167	132	256	360	433	404	625	30	30	19	39	46	53	47	53

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine vessels only

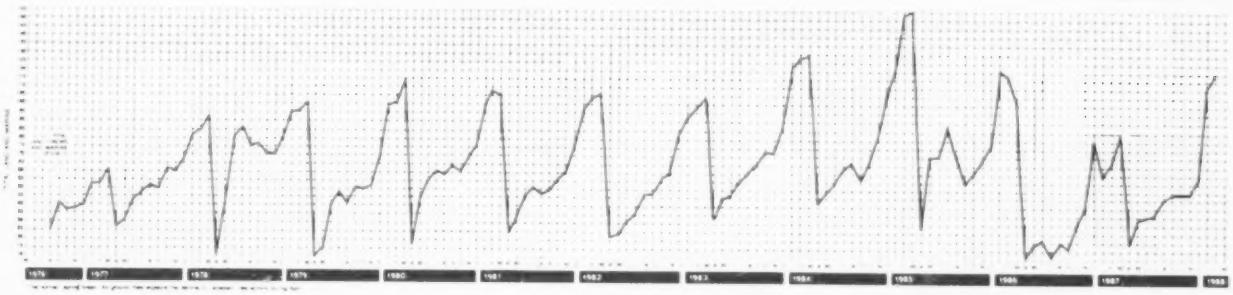
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

February, 1988 (January figures in parentheses)

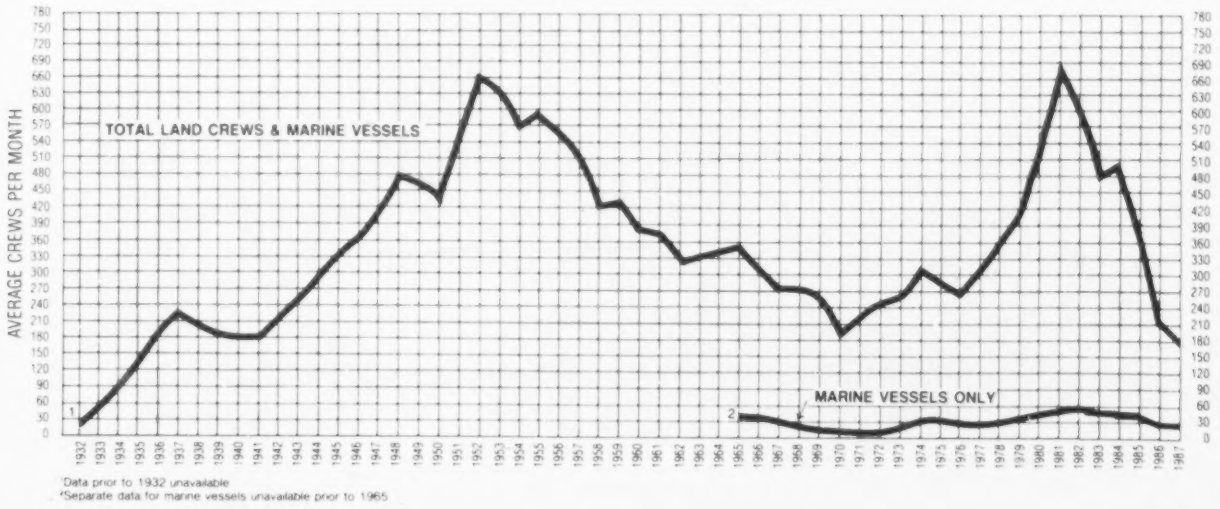
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
33 Contractors:	117 (110)	0 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (2)	0 (0)
Totals:	119 (112)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



'Data prior to 1932 unavailable
*Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965